

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Levskigrad Airfield and Aircraft Repair Plant	DATE DISTR.	3 September 1958
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		REFERENCES	
DATE OF INFO.			
PLACE & DATE ACQ.			

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Levskigrad Airfield

1. Levskigrad Airfield¹ is also called Karlovo or Marino Pole Airfield and is located eight to ten kilometers southeast of Levskigrad, between Sokoltsi and Vasil Levski villages. The field is approximately two by one kilometers in size and surrounded on all sides, except the northwest, by mountains and hills.
2. An Attack Bomber Battalion (Eskadrila) which is subordinate to one of the Attack Bomber Regiments at Plovdiv airfield² is stationed at the airfield. The strength of the battalion, including its supply unit is approximately 50 to 70 officers, 30 non-commissioned officers and 100 enlisted men. Only 15 of the officers are pilots.
3. The airfield has no concrete runway, only a runway covered with sand and grass which drains well and is never covered with water or mud. The general direction used by the planes landing and taking off is east-west.
4. There are 12 to 15 ~~PISTOL~~ and ~~COACHES~~ at the field which are kept in two of the four hangars on the field. Although Source never heard of jets landing at the field he believes the field can be used by ~~PISTOL~~'s and ~~FRESCO~~'s.
5. The buildings and installations of the field are located at the northern end, as follows, except for the fuel supply depot consisting of gasoline drums stored in the open at the western end of the field.
 - a. The entrance for pedestrians is in the northwest corner of the field next to a checking booth, approximately two by two meters in size.

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STATE	X	ARMY #	X	NAVY #	X	AIR #	X	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)														

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- b. Only the western side of the field is bordered by a barbed wire fence, approximately two meters high.
- c. Warehouse; one-story, brick building, eight by four meters in size.
- d. Hospital; one-story, brick building, ten by six meters in size.
- e. Barracks and mess hall for soldiers; two-story, brick building, 20 by eight meters in size.
- f. Four hangars, each 25 by ten meters in size, facing the runway.
- g. Headquarters building, facing the runway between the hangars; two-story, brick building, 20 by ten meters in size, with weather station on the roof.
- h. Garage, 20 by ten meters in size.
- i. Five apartment houses for airfield personnel; each is two-story, 14 by eight meters in size, with flats for six families.
- j. Barracks and mess hall for pilots; two-story, brick building, 12 by ten meters in size.
- k. Three partly demolished buildings that were damaged during World War II and had never been repaired.

Aircraft Repair Plant

6. An aircraft repair plant is located at the southern end of the field and is connected with the Levskigrad-Burgas railroad by a branch line. The plant consists of approximately five workshops and five apartment houses for the plant personnel.
7. There are approximately 100 workers employed at the plant which repairs propeller planes, agricultural machinery, and motor vehicles as well as producing all kinds of kitchen ware, particularly aluminum, from the parts of junked planes. The plant has been controlled by the Ministry of Heavy Industry since 1954.³

Comments:

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1. In 1955 and 1956 the airfield was not in use and an air force driving school was stationed here.
2. In connection with the deactivation of the Attack Bomber Division at Plovdiv, the Attack Bomber Battalion at Levskigrad airfield was in process of deactivation.

Comment: [redacted] the planned reduction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces would not take place because of the Middle East situation.

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3. In 1954, Major General Konstantinov, Chief of Supply in the Bulgarian Air Force, was assigned Deputy Minister of Heavy Industry and at the same time all large aircraft plants were transferred from the Air Force to the Ministry of Heavy Industry. Since 1954, only the small repair shops at the airfields have remained under the control of the Air Force Supply Battalions at the airfield.

[redacted] as an attachment to this report is a sketch with an attached legend of Levskigrad airfield.

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Distribution of Attachment

Air - Loan
Army - Loan

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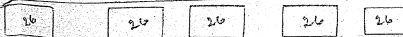
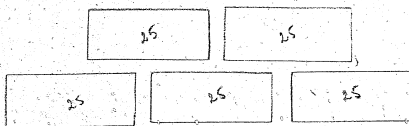
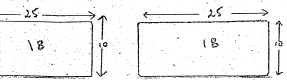
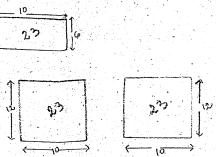
LEGEND TO SKETCH ON LEVSKIGRAD AIRFIELD

1. Levskigrad - Burgas railroad.
2. Branch of the railroad leading to the aircraft plant in the south part of the airfield.
3. Botev railroad station (eight kilometers east of Levskigrad).
4. Levskigrad-Kalofer highway (gravel surface).
5. Vasil Levski village.
6. Vasil Levski - Marino Pole gravel road.
7. Marino Pole village.
8. Levskigrad - Marino Pole - Banya gravel road.
9. Gravel road leading to the aircraft plant in the southern part of the airfield.
10. Gravel road leading to the airfield.
11. Path leading from Botev railroad station to the airfield.
12. Entrance of the airfield (only for pedestrians.) Northwest corner.
13. Checking booth at the entrance of the airfield. Two by two meters.
14. Barbed wire fence - 1.80 - 2.00 meters high; (exists only on the west side of the airfield).
15. Storage - one-story brick building, eight by four meters.
16. Hospital - one-story brick building, ten by six meters.
17. Soldiers' dormitory and dining mess - two stories high, brick building, 20 by eight meters.
18. Hangars, 25 by 10 meters.
19. H.Q. - two-story brick building with a weather station on the roof.
20. Garage, 20 by 10 meters.
21. Five apartment houses for the personnel staff of the airfield. Each one is a two-story building with flats for six families.
22. Pilots' dining mess and dormitories, two-story brick building, 12 by 10 meters.
23. Half ruined buildings.
24. A red line which marks the imaginative limits of the airfield.
25. Workshops of the aircraft plant.
26. Apartment houses for the personnel staff of the aircraft plant.

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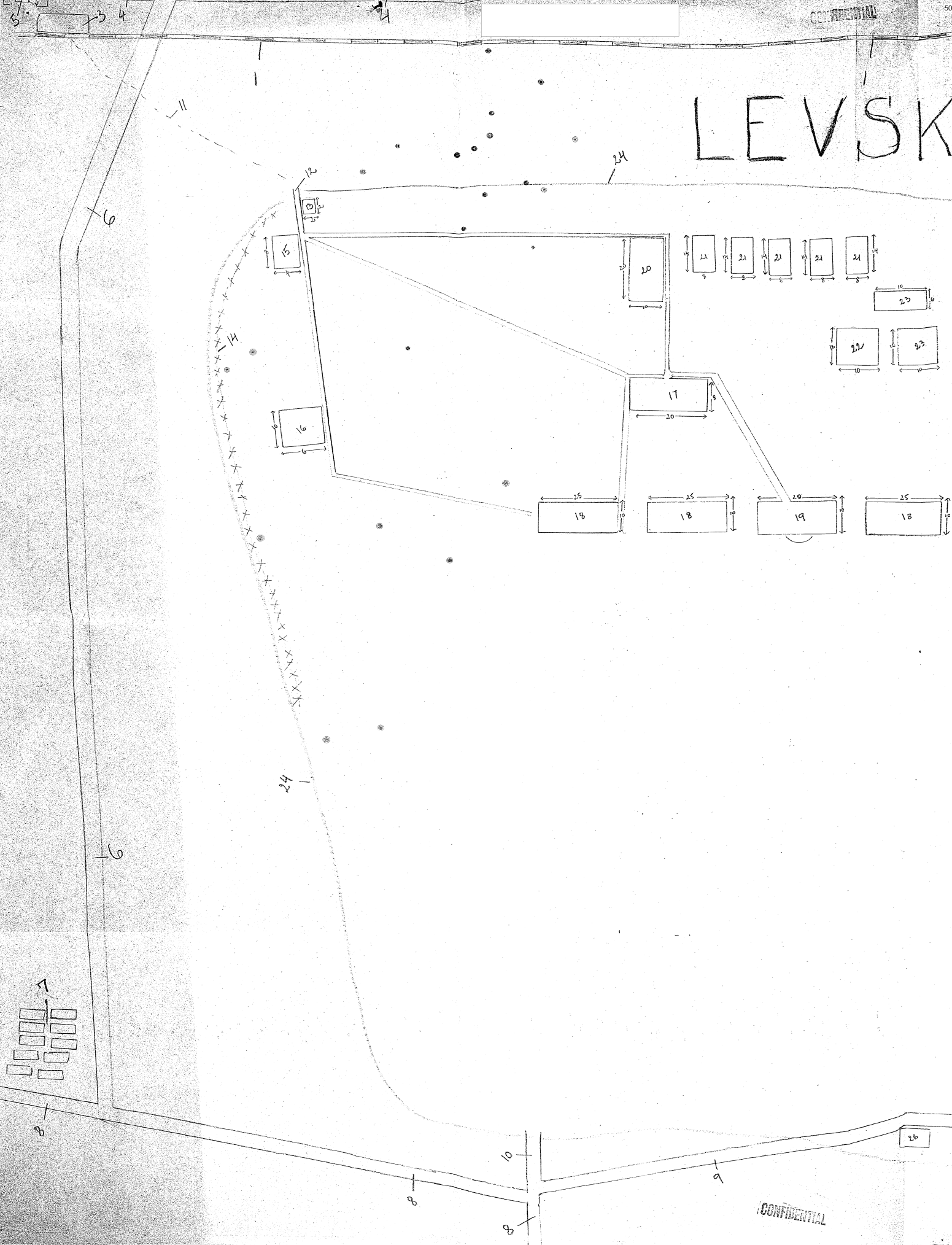
AIRFIELD



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